

What's New in the City



City of Natchitoches



Bloomin' on the Bricks set for March 24

March 1, 2012

Experience the beauty of springtime in downtown Natchitoches during the Twelfth Annual Bloomin' on the Bricks on Saturday, March 24.

The Twelfth Annual Bloomin' on the Bricks will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 on the downtown riverbank in Natchitoches' National Historic Landmark District.

The free event, which is being organized by the Natchitoches Main Street Program, is a celebration of spring in the City's Historic District. Visitors will be able



to see the beauty of springtime in downtown Natchitoches through its hanging

flower baskets and thousands of daffodils and tulips planted along the riverbank and downtown area.

The spring garden festival will feature an exhibit area with lawn and garden vendors who will display and sell an assortment of items needed to transform your garden and yard this spring season. Nursery owners from around the area will sell specialized plants such as ferns, bromeliads, herbs, bedding plants and more. Other vendors will sell iron work, landscape

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Did you know?

- Natchitoches' next Mayor and City Council members will be selected during local elections on Saturday, March 24. Be sure to vote!
- Save the Date! A special "Jazz in the Park" concert will be held on Thursday, April 5 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Beau Jardin on the downtown riverbank. Music will be provided by Chico's Quartet, led by Carlos Ortiz.
- The 2012 Green Market season begins Saturday, April 28 on the downtown riverbank. Mark your calendars!

Jazz/R&B Festival to be held March 30-31

The 17th annual Natchitoches Jazz / R&B Festival will be held on March 30 & 31 on the downtown riverbank in Natchitoches and will have a "hall of fame" flair to it.

This year's festival will be headlined by rock & roll hall of fame group "The Family Stone" and will also feature "Satisfaction," a tribute to the rock & roll famers "The Rolling Stones."

The festival will also host The Louisiana Music Hall



of Fame Bayou Bicentennial Caravan, which is traveling the state spotlighting Louisi-

ana music.

The festival, which is a 2 day event, will kick off Friday afternoon with "free Friday" meaning that, as the name suggests, there will be no admission. There will be several bands performing on Friday evening. Admission on Saturday will be \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the gate for adults, \$4.00 in advance and \$5.00 at the gate for students, and children 12 and under get in

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Art Along the Bricks March 24

Art Along the Bricks, a free, one-day outdoor art show, will be held on Front Street on Saturday, March 24 in conjunction with Bloomin' on the Bricks.



and sell their artwork. Vendors will offer a wide range of items including water color paintings, jewelry, ceramics,

The event is sponsored by the Natchitoches Art Guild. Fine artists and crafters are invited to set up booths along Front Street where they display

stained glass and more.

For information about the event or to become a vendor, call the Natchitoches Art Guild at 352-1626.

Jazz, cont'd. from page 1

free. The festival, which is a 2 day event, will kick off Friday afternoon with "free Friday" meaning that, as the name suggests, there will be no admission.

There will be several bands performing on Friday evening. Admission on Saturday will be \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the gate for adults, \$4.00 in

advance and \$5.00 at the gate for students, and children 12 and under get in free.

For more information concerning the 2012 Natchitoches Jazz / R & B Festival, go to www.natchjazzfest.com or call the Natchitoches Tourist Commission at (318)352-6398.

The Easter Bunny is coming to town!

Photographs with the Easter Bunny will be available on Saturday, March 24 on the downtown riverbank during Bloomin' on the Bricks. Photos will be taken from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Roque House gardens by photographer Chris Post. Photo packages are available, beginning at \$15. For more information, call (318) 332-5321.



Natchitoches named 'Tree City USA'

The Arbor Day Foundation has announced the City of Natchitoches has been named as a Tree City USA community for its commitment to urban forestry.

This is the 11th year Natchitoches has earned this national honor from the Arbor Day Foundation, the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Ar-

bor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Tree City USA communities must have a tree department, tree care ordinance, a community forestry program

with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

More information can be found at www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.



TREE CITY USA®

Festival, cont'd. from page 1

materials, yard art and other decorative items.

The day-long event will feature musical entertainment by The Lukejazz Trio from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A children's

area will include spring-related crafts, the Natchitoches Parish Library and animals from the Alexandria Zoo. Food booths will be located on the riverbank throughout the day.

A special addition to this year's festival will be a sneak preview of Beau Jardin, a newly-constructed water fea-

ture and garden area on the downtown riverbank. The landscape contractor and vendors responsible for the design and implementation

of the new garden will be on hand to answer

questions and provide information about the area.

There is no admission to attend Bloomin' on the Bricks. For information about the show or to become a vendor, please call the Natchitoches Main Street Office at (318) 352-2746.



Green Market to host spring garden Lunch & Learn on March 15

The Cane River Green Market and Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter) announced plans to host a "Growing a Spring Vegetable Garden" lunch and learn on Thursday, March 15.

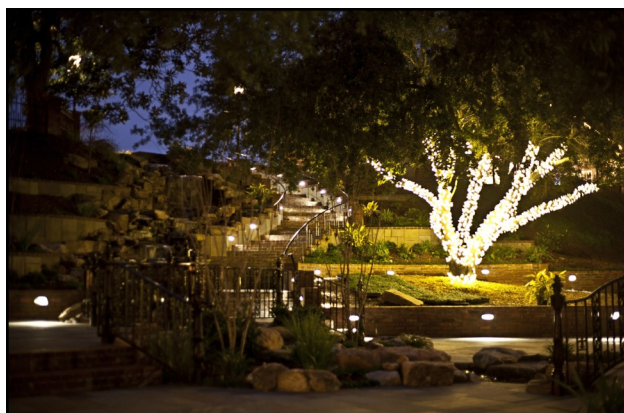
The Lunch and Learn event will be held from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center located at 716 Second St. Participants will learn best practices on preparation and maintenance of spring gardens, as well as recommended vegetable varieties for planting. The lunch and learn is free and

open to all members of the greater Natchitoches region.

The lunch and learn will be presented by Kathryn "Kiki" Fontenot, the LSU AgCenter's state extension vegetable specialist for home, school, and community gardens.

Advance registration for the lunch and learn is required since space is limited. Interested individuals need to RSVP to (318) 352-2746 (CRGM) or green-market@natchitochesla.gov. Free lunch will be provided to registered participants.

March 23 reception to showcase Beau Jardin to the public



The City of Natchitoches will sponsor a special preview of *Beau Jardin*, a new garden and waterfall feature, on Friday, March 23.

An "open house" reception will be held on Friday, March 23 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in *Beau Jardin*, located on the north end of the downtown riverbank in the Natchitoches Historic District.

The reception is free and open to the general public. Musical entertain-

ment will be provided by the Northwestern State University Jazz Orchestra, led by Galindo Rodriguez.

Beau Jardin is now available to be rented for wedding ceremonies, receptions or other special events.

For more information about *Beau Jardin* or the March 23 open house, please call the Natchitoches Main Street office at (318) 352-2746 or "like" *Beau Jardin* on Facebook.

January Employee of the Month



Carol Steadman was named the City of Natchitoches' Employee of the Month for January.

Carol serves as the City Clerk for the City of Natchitoches.

Shown in the picture are (from left) HR Manager Edd Lee, Finance Director Pat Jones, Lisa Borders, Jill

Raynes, Stacy McQueary, Carol Steadman, Mayor Wayne McCullen and Natasha Goston.

To nominate someone for Employee of the Month, please call HR Manager Edd Lee at 357-3824.

Welcome Spring!



City of Natchitoches

Oldest Permanent
Settlement in the
Louisiana Purchase

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The spring season will
officially begin on
Sunday, March 20

Blush & Bashful Bridal Affair March 11

Come join us at the *Blush & Bashful Bridal Affair* on Sunday, March 11 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center located at 750 Second Street in beautiful historic Natchitoches. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

The *Bridal Affair* will feature over 50 exhibitors representing top wedding professionals who offer the newest ideas in ceremonies and receptions. Exhibitors including photographers, videographers, caterers, florists, wedding coordinators, beauty consultants, and shops offering designer bridal gowns and tuxedos, as well as many other types of exhibitors, will all be under one roof so bring your entire wedding party!

Brides will have the opportunity to meet with local and regional vendors. In addition to great exhibitors, the *Bridal Affair* will host a fantastic fashion show at 3 p.m. giving you and your wedding party the opportunity to see the latest bridal attire trends including casual wear, flower

girl dresses, mother-of-the-bride dresses, tuxedos, bridesmaid dresses and wedding gowns just to name a few.

You cannot miss the grand prize drawing at 4 p.m. to be held one block away in beautiful Beau Jardin, the brand new river-front water garden located on the banks of Cane River Lake. Beau Jardin is the perfect setting for weddings, rehearsal dinners, or any intimate outdoor event. For the first time ever in the history of the show, the grand prize drawing will include an "Ultimate Natchitoches Wedding Package" valued at over \$5,000! Imagine an outdoor water garden for your ceremony, over 7,000 square feet with decorations for your reception, a fully catered bridesmaid luncheon with florals, a 2-night stay in an "Award Winning Natchitoches B&B", Custom Save the Date Announcements and more – ALL FREE!

For information about the show call the Natchitoches Events Center at (877) 238-7502 or email cpost@natchitochesla.gov.

Upcoming holidays and important events

March 5 – Historic District Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

March 6 – Natchitoches Planning and Zoning Commission meets at 6 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

March 11 – Blush & Bashful Bridal Affair at the Natchitoches Events Center from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

March 11 – Daylight Savings

March 12 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

March 15 – Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission meeting at 10 a.m. at the

Arts Center.

March 15 – Lunch and Learn on how to grow a spring garden from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day.

March 17-18 – "Books for Bucks" book sale to benefit the Natchitoches Parish Library at Terrell Brothers Furniture Store.

March 19 – Natchitoches Airport Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

March 23 – Open house recep-

tion for Beau Jardin from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

March 24 – Bloomin' on the Bricks from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Art Along the Bricks on Front Street

March 24 – Election Day

March 26 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

March 30-31 – Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival

March 31 – Natchitoches Noisette Garden Symposium at the Natchitoches Events Center.

